

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image reading apparatus prevents degradation of image quality and a delay in the image reading time which are caused by interruption of reading of image data. A speed at which a host computer reads image data from an image reading apparatus and temporarily stores it therein is examined. If the resulting speed is lower than a reference value which has been set so that an operation to avoid an overflow of a buffer RAM in the image reading apparatus may not be caused, the sub-scanning speed of the image reading apparatus is set lower, and the image is read at the lower speed.